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**PATENT**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: **Kimio KAWAGOE et al.**

Serial No.: **Not Yet Assigned**  
(§ 371 of international application No. PCT/JP01/06442)

Filed: **March 26, 2002**

For: **SLIDING BEARING**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 26, 2002

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

That is, the present invention is related to a sliding bearing, wherein an overlay, which consists of at least one solid lubricant and a binder resin, covers an aluminum-alloy bearing layer bonded on the backing metal, characterized in that said overlay consists of an upper layer, which contains the solid lubricant essentially consisting of MoS<sub>2</sub>, and a lower layer consisting of one or both of at least one solid lubricant and at least one hard additive (hereinafter referred to as "the additive"), and, further, the MoS<sub>2</sub> gradually decreases without steps and the hard additive increases

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gradually in the direction from the top layer to the bottom layer. The present invention is hereinafter described in detail.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 8 and 9 as follows:

8. (Amended) A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said upper layer consists of two or more sub-layers having different MoS<sub>2</sub> content, the MoS<sub>2</sub> content of the upper sub-layer is more than the MoS<sub>2</sub> content of the lower sub-layer.

9. (Amended) A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said lower layer consists of two or more sub-layers having different additive amount.

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REMARKS

The above amendment is believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.

Early and favorable action is awaited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18, has been amended as follows:

That is, the present invention is related to a sliding bearing, wherein an overlay, which consists of at least one solid lubricant and a binder resin, covers an aluminum-alloy bearing layer bonded on the backing metal, characterized in that said overlay consists of an upper layer, which contains the solid lubricant essentially consisting of MoS<sub>2</sub>, and a lower layer consisting of one or both of at least one solid lubricant and at least one hard additive (hereinafter referred to as "the additive"), and, further, the MoS<sub>2</sub> gradually decreases without steps and the hard additive increases gradually in the direction from the top layer to the bottom layer. The present invention is hereinafter described in detail.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended as follows:

8. (Amended) A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through [7]6, wherein said upper layer [consist] consists of two or more sub-layers having different MoS<sub>2</sub> content, the MoS<sub>2</sub> content of the upper sub-layer is more than the MoS<sub>2</sub> content of the lower sub-layer.

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9. (Amended) A sliding bearing according to any one of claims 1 through [8] 6, wherein said lower layer consists of two or more sub-layers having different additive amount.